



HAWK TALK

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DARKNESS FALLS

There was a disappointing end to the Club Night season with 13 members there on a cold but dry night only for the generator to play up. All had only one race and the top race didn't get finished, as it was clear that the lights could not stay on long enough to complete a race. We therefore had to abandon the event. We will carry forward the £1 subs paid to next season, as it was unfair to charge for one race! Dan Chambers gets to keep the Rider of the Night Trophy over the winter – he won it three times.

The Club Nights have been a roaring success and final statistics will be issued soon. 48 different members took part over the 30 weeks and Phil Adams tops the appearance charts with 29 weeks!! See you all in March!

VETS ENTERTAIN

Despite there being only three of us for the first-ever Hethersett Veteran's Championship (or as Phil Adam's described it the Veterinary Championship!!) I am sure those watching were entertained over the four races. In the end Tim Grimes' knee which has troubled him for weeks gave way again and Dave Chambers kept missing the pedals so I was crowned champion – there can't have been many who have won titles after being last out of the gate in every race! M.Perkins 14 D.Chambers 10 T.Grimes 10.

HARLEY DOES IT IN 2008

After being the favourite in 2007 but making a big mess of things, Harley Hamill was determined to make amends in the Maiden Plate this year. Showing how much he has improved he won all his six races in style to take the title. It was always going to be interesting for the minor places even though it was disappointing that only 10 of the 22 eligible riders actually took part. Dave Chambers took the wrong route in lapping Olivia Nicholas and Axl Johnson nipped in to win heat and this meant that Danny Woods who had been showing more like his old form finished clear in second place, one point ahead of Dave. Axl went on to win the handicap prize that as based on age.

H.Hamill 24 D.Woods 21 D.Chambers 20 A.Johnson 18 C.Grimes 17 J.Miller 14 C.Martin 11 K.Adams 11 D.Martin 8 O.Nicholas 6

FAVOURITES WIN - JUST

The Best Pairs was a fitting end to the season as always although some of the racing (loose description) did test the referee Roy Abbott's patience and the great camaraderie within the Club. There were lots of stop and go tactics and some of what was described as Zig and Zag would have had Stan Allinson pointing fingers all over the place. But it was entertaining as the match had everything. Whoever drew Harley Hamill as their partner was going to be favourite and Dan Chambers was the lucky man. They had to work hard for

it though and in the end a somewhat fortunate 7-2 over Simon Wilcox and Scott Grimes was the difference. However, they did ride very well tactically so deserved to win. Jazz Abbott was again in fine form and some good back up, especially in his 15th and 16th rides of the day, gave Dave Chambers his third trophy of the day. The most experienced tacticians finished third (somehow after disagreeing and confusing each other with tactics all afternoon!). Entertainment yes – drama yes – quality cycle-speedway no! But all smiles at the end and that's what is important as a festival finale to a great season.

Dan Chambers & H.Hamill 34 J.Abbott & Dave Chambers 33 D.Martin & M.Perkins 32 D.Adams & D.Woods 31 S.Wilcox & S.Grimes 27 B.Collins & A.Johnson 26 P.Adams & C.Grimes 25.

THIRD PLACE

The Hawks achieved third place in South-East Division 1 after Ipswich and Norwich could not agree a re-arranged date for their cancelled match and the League agreed that it would not take place. Another disappointing episode to conclude the season.

CONTAINER ON THE WAY?

Simon Wilcox has finally got through all the red tape to be told that we do not need planning permission to bring a container in and put it behind the hedge near the starting gates. Hopefully we can get this organised shortly and start making it our store and convert the other container to a kitchen and first aid room.

CHANGES IN 2009

John Nelson and I went to the South-East Annual General Meeting at Gt.Blakenham and came away with headaches after 4 hours of arguing and festering feuds. There were lots of criticisms over 2008 covering disciplinary matters, cancellations, communications, Grand Prix and whether the sport is better off in British Cycling or out of it! What really emerged were some changes for 2009. It looks like Somersham, Colchester and Eaton will not be racing as teams which will affect SE Division 2, SE Youth League and Norfolk & Suffolk League. Division 1 should remain as 6 teams but Kesgrave seem to have an unstable situation. Two additional competitions will be introduced, four-a-side leagues at U14 and U12 categories. The Grand Prix remains but the Youth Grand Prix, which had finals off the back of the Youth & Junior League, has been scrapped.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Members will shortly receive bills covering outstanding items for 2008. These now include fees for Norfolk events that have only just been paid by the Club. Please can members pay me outstanding monies by the end of the year.

INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Good luck to the Hawks teams and riders taking part in the British Indoor Championships at Walsall this coming weekend.

PARTY REMINDER

Don't forget the party on Friday December 5th – separate info and tickets will arrive soon.